

HUBBELL BEQUEST

Bequest received under the will of Ferdinand B. Hubbell to establish a scholarship in memory of his father Brig. Gen. Horatio Hubbell (1818) and of Levi Hubbell (1827), Walter Hubbell (1814), Walter Seymour Hubbell (1844) and Ferdinand Wakeman Hubbell (1810).

will made in 1927 - copy in Comptroller's office

CLASS OF 1818

HORATIO HUBBELL

Eldest son of Walter Hubbell, Esq., was born in Brooklyn, N. Y., July 9, 1799.

At the age of fourteen he entered Union College, but as the climate of Schenectady did not agree with him, he was transferred to this college, which he entered in 1815.

He studied law in the office of Joseph R. Ingersoll, Esq., of Philadelphia, and after his admission to the bar (in September, 1821) traveled extensively in Europe. He settled in Philadelphia and for many years had an extensive practice. In 1842 he was elected Brigadier General of the Third Philadelphia Brigade.

His wife died in the early part of the winter of 1874-75, and his own health became soon after much impaired. While on a visit to relatives in Pittsburgh, Pa., he died of apoplexy, July 23, 1875, aged 76 years.

Obituary Record of Graduates of Yale College p. 423
1870-1880.

The Hubbell will makes the bequest of \$3,000 to Union College as follows:

"The sum of \$3,000 to the Trustees of Union College, Schenectady, New York, as a memorial to the Honorable Levi Hubbell, Walter Hubbell, Walter Seymour Hubbell, Ferdinand Wakeman Hubbell, and my father, Brigadier General Horatio Hubbell, brothers, cousins, or sons, all members or graduates of said institution and members of the legal profession, and my father being the projector of the Atlantic Cable for telegraphic purposes between Newfoundland and Ireland in 1849. The income therefrom to be applied to a scholarship in said college to be known as the 'Hubbell Scholarship'."

Horatio William Law Hubbell, of Philadelphia, Pa., eldest son of Walter Hubbell, Esq., merchant of New York City, was born in Brooklyn Heights, N. Y., July 9th, 1799. Jonathan Law, the last Colonial Governor of Connecticut, was his maternal great grandfather; his maternal grandfather, the Hon. Richard Law, was a member of the Continental Congress and first Chief Justice of Connecticut. At an early age he had the misfortune to lose his father, and his education was conducted under the supervision of his mother until he entered Union College at the age of fourteen. The climate of Schenectady, N. Y., not agreeing with him, he was transferred the following year to Yale College. A very amusing pamphlet published about 1850, gives his views of the imperfect system of education adopted at this latter institution, and suggested changes that would take Yale from the rank of colleges and place her among the foremost universities of the age. Many of these suggestions have since been adopted and their wisdom indicated by the enlarged facilities and prosperity of her Alma Mater. He graduated with honors in the class of 1818. Selecting Philadelphia as his future residence, he entered (as a fellow-student with the late Justice Sherwood and Hon. Henry D. Gilpin) the office of the Honorable Joseph R. Ingersoll, for many years one of the leaders of a bar renowned for legal erudition and culture--an office famous for the thoroughness of the instruction furnished to the students and from which many of the most eminent lawyers and judges have been furnished to Philadelphia and other cities. After his admission to the bar, Gen. Hubbell traveled extensively in Europe, where his acquaintance with the classics and principal modern languages gave him unusual advantages for the acquisition of an enlarged and useful knowledge.

In 1825 and 1826 he visited Saxony, and in connection with his friend, William Hart, Esq., and Captain Samuel Chandler, of New York, imported the first flock of Saxony sheep ever brought to the United States.

In addition to his acquirements as a linguist, his mathematical attainments were of the highest standard and a work which he wrote upon gunnery has been adopted as a text-book in one of the military academies of this country; what is very unusual, he was not only eminent as a mathematician, but of much excellence as a poet. It is seldom that logical exactness and a lively imagination are combined in one individual as they are in Gen. Hubbell.

In 1842 he was elected Brigadier of the Third Brigade, Pennsylvania Volunteers, comprising ^{the} troops in the southern part of Philadelphia County. During the year 1844, in which most disgraceful riots took place, the exertions of Gen. Hubbell and the activity of the troops under his command, saved the Catholic Churches of St. Paul and St. Joseph from the fury of the mob.

The greatest luster Gen. Hubbell has added to the name has given him a world-wide reputation. It is that of being the first to suggest the practicability of communicating between Europe and America by means of a telegraphic cable, and suggesting the existence of a plateau at the bottom of the ocean.

Of course there was opposition, as there always is to every new project which proposes something useful to the community. When his memorial was laid before Congress in 1849 asking for the use of a naval vessel to make soundings, and try the experiment, the only Senator who viewed the project favorably was the Hon. Jefferson Davis, so far at least as to move the reception and filing of Gen. Hubbell's memorial.

"As probably it would be a matter that after-generations might be willing to lay hold of and investigate to their satisfaction."

General Hubbell was a facile writer, and a frequent contributor to the magazines and periodicals of his time.

For fifty years his legal practice was extensive, and his sterling integrity and the earnestness of his oratory made him very successful with juries. Prior to the consolidation of the city of Philadelphia, he was at different times the Solicitor for the districts of Southwark, Moyamensing and Kingsessing. In his personal character, his sincerity, warm-heartedness and magnanimity were striking traits. His affection for his family and friends was constant, and his attachment to his native country--the whole country--was most conspicuous; of its capabilities and future grandeur he was never weary of speaking.

In September, 1841, Gen. Hubbell was married to Miss Rebecca Brooks, the third daughter of John Brooks, Esq., of Harrisburg, Pa. For 34 years they shared life's joys and cares, when death suddenly deprived him of his companion. While visiting relatives in the vicinity of Pittsburgh, Pa., on July 23, 1875, he fell a victim of apoplexy, a disease which seems the cause of death among men of intellect in this country; a few shocks of a slight character had given warning, the previous winter, of the impending danger. When the last summons came, it was fortunate that it reached him when amidst those who were near and dear to him. He survived the attack only a few hours. His remains were interred in South Laurel Hill Cemetery, Philadelphia, on July 27, 1875, and the following epitaph was placed upon his monument:

"The Eminent Jurist,
The Patriotic Citizen,
The Man of Honor and Truth,
The Faithful Friend,
The Dutiful Son
The Tender and Devoted Husband and Father."

History of the Hubbell Family
1st Ed. pp. 157-159
Walter Hubbell
New York 1881.

Horatio Hubbell 1818

Horatio Hubbell 818